

Cranbrook West Recreation Advisory Committee

**Outstanding Items Working Group OIWG
Pine Grass Room – ILMB Office Cranbrook
May 28, 2008 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Present:

Sangita Sudan, ILMB - Chair	Bill Adair, ILMB
Andy Balcom, Kimb Wildlife & Wilderness Club	Leanne Colombo, GCC
Dave Quinn, E.K. Backcountry Assoc.	Larry Hall, E.K. Hunters Assoc.
Dave Miller, BC Snowmobile Federation	Ken Philpot, Crbk Snowmobile Club
Tom McDougall, Kootenay Mush & Berry Pickers	Donna Morrison, KLA
Notes: Sylvia Neufeld	

Guest:

Russ Brewer owner of Full Throttle, Public motorized recreation (dirt bike & ATV)

Welcome and Introductions

- The Chair opened the meeting and introduced Russ Brewer from Full Throttle – a local bike repair business.

Review of minutes from April 9, 2008

Agreed: No change, minutes were approved

Discussion on Intensive Use Areas (IUA)

- Chair asked the group to brainstorm with Russ, proposed intensive use sites around Cranbrook and ideal terrain features for associated activities
- The group began by discussing the different types of motorized recreation for IUAs they want to focus on
- Russ Brewer informed the group of a popular activity referred to as mud racing which no one had heard of before

Agreed: The group wants to focus on areas mainly for dirt biking and ATVing, Mudboogging would be addressed later.

- Mudbogging is popular activity around Lake Koochanusa specifically when water levels are below the high water mark
- Russ said that many of his clients have lately been complaining about being fined by Conservation Officers in areas such as the Alkali Flats
- When asked what were the ideal areas for dirt biking and ATVing, he responded the open grasslands and undulating terrain without rocks
- Someone pointed out that in order to eliminate the noise factor the ideal area for an IUA would be in a bowl
- Treed areas with trails are suitable for both dirt biking and ATVing
- Russ informed that there is a motorcross track at Elko behind the saw mill, to the south, located on Crown land adjacent to gravel pits on the other side of the gas line
- Some sites were suggested by the group and Russ: Lazy Lake, the Isadores, Perry Creek and the lower part of Hospital Creek off King Street. The only thing about this area is that it is covered in snow after it has melted off the trench
- Another suggestion was in an area called the dustbowl which is located on private land and has been heavily used by ATVs and dirt bikes because it is flat.
- Someone asked if perhaps government would consider a land swap with the owner.

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- Facifern on the second bench was also suggested. This area has active haul roads. Perhaps use haul roads to designate parking areas (unloading zones)
- Russ suggested that whatever area is picked it needs to be large enough, a small area would cause spill over – “bikers need about 30 miles of trail”.
- Tom McD suggests that in Utah and Arizona sites are designated for motorized activity such as at Moab. The signs are very clear on where the ride areas are
- In Montana they have the green & red dot system
- Donna suggested that perhaps we need to approach the dealers to locate a site.
- Ken pointed out that they may not support locating a site due to politics
- Russ informed more 20 year olds out dirt biking since most of them live at home and can afford to own large machines, they have lots of money.
- Larry asked Russ if he would be willing to organize the folks he bikes with to form a society and apply for tenure over a site identified by the group.
- Russ responded that it would be dependent on if he was able to get enough people interested.